
Forms Roadmap for Traditional Developers



Forms interoperability with your other
enterprise applications and SOA



Questions

- How many supporting SQL*Forms 3.0?
 - How many supporting Oracle Forms 4.0-6.0 ?
 - How many supporting Oracle Forms 6i ?
 - Planning to upgrade to Oracle 10gR2 Forms?
 - If planning to upgrade, what business reasons are driving your need to upgrade?
 - When is an upgrade to 9i or higher Forms useful or necessary?
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Do you Need to Upgrade your Oracle Forms to the Web ?

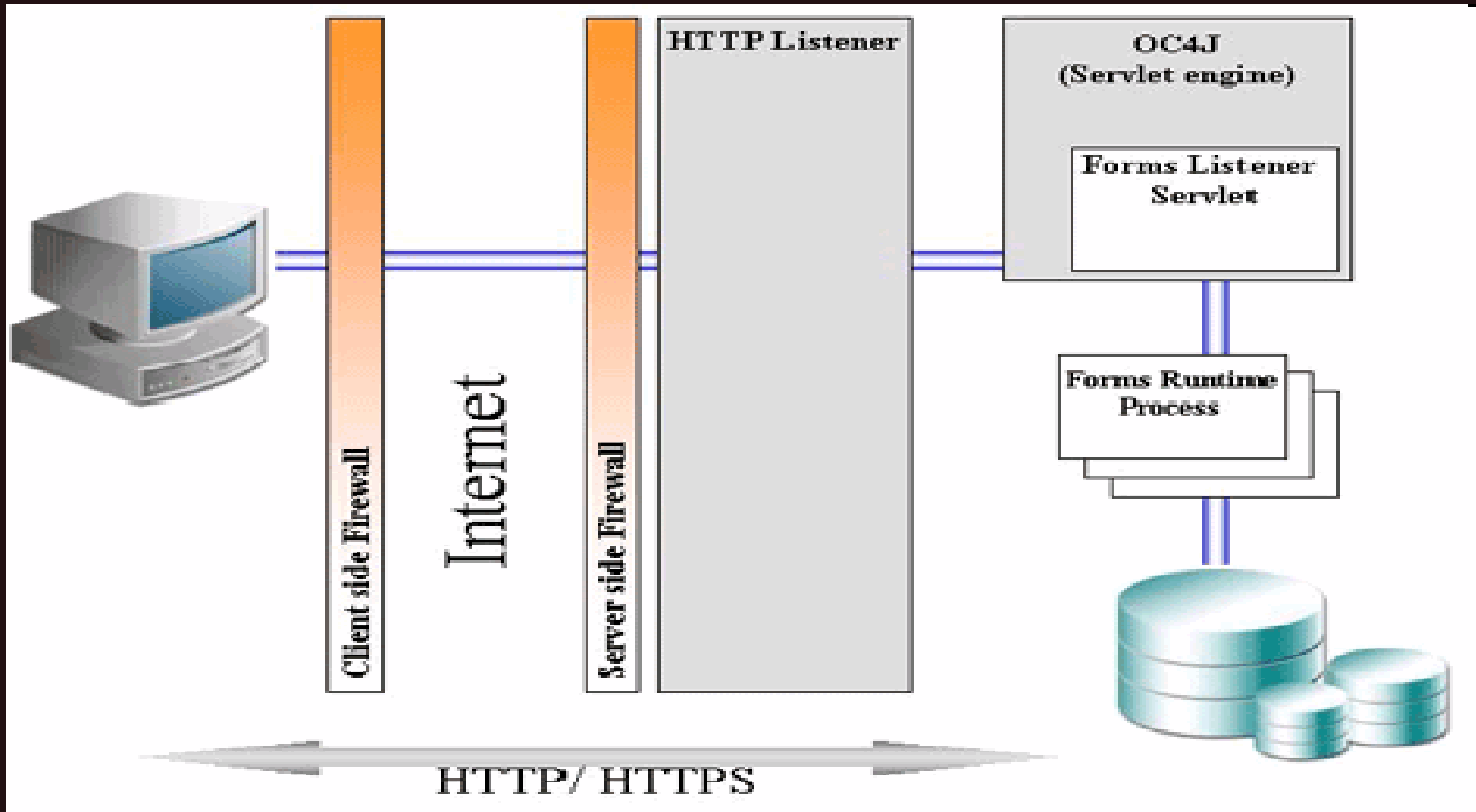
- SQL*Forms 3.0 and up then Oracle has roadmaps for you at this URL:



<http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/forms/htdocs/upgrade/roadmap.html>

- The goal of this part of the Roadmap is to get your Forms to Oracle 9i Forms (or higher).
 - The relevance of this upgrade goal to your shop depends on interoperability needs and whether you have workflows that change.
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Same Forms Architecture since 9i 9iForms & 10g(9.0.4)* & 10gR2 (10.1.2)



Forms 6i → 9i Roadmaps

- If you are going from 6i to 9i this URL provides critical information for Developers:

http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/forms/pdf/forms_upgrade_reference.pdf



Oracle Forms...

- is a tool which allows creation of GUI applications that access the Oracle DB in a very efficient and tightly-coupled way (as true today as it was in years past!)
 - was developed to run server-side in character mode on any Unix box, before Windows existed.
 - was ported to Java so that it can run in a J2EE container and can integrate with Java and web services (e.g SOA).
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Leverage Existing Investment

- Large customer base of existing Forms deployments worldwide.
- Over 160,000 Forms deployments worldwide.
- E-business 12 still uses Forms and Reports.
- Get Forms onto a 3-tier internet platform because this is the “leveraging” of Forms.
- The conversion to 3-tier is not always necessary

Internet Model



- Oracle's development tools strategy is to offer software development tools that enable the development of enterprise applications on an Internet model.
- The software development tools consist of two parallel product offerings.

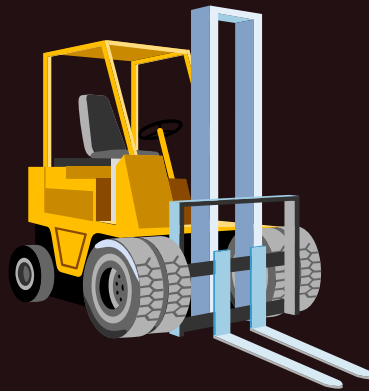
Traditional Development Tools

- Oracle Designer (application modeling)
- Oracle Reports (batch reporting)

The programming language and execution environment for these tools is PL/SQL.

New Java Tools “JDEV”

- Oracle has a powerful app dev tool called Oracle JDeveloper, an integrated J2EE Application Development Framework (Oracle ADF).
- Oracle also plans to release a Java-based end-user reporting solution that will be provided in a future release of Oracle’s business intelligence tools.

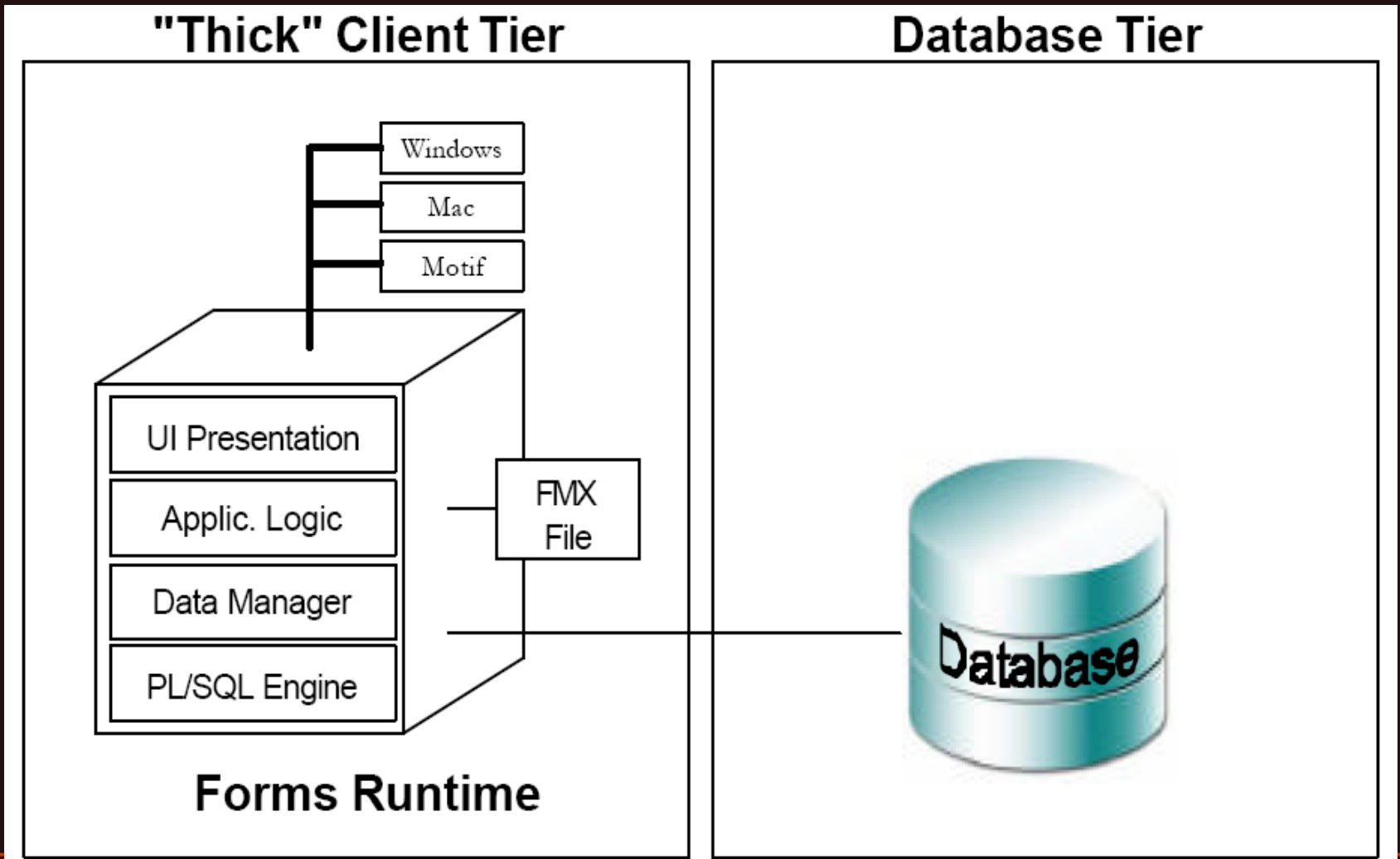


Internet Model + SOA

(in certain business situations only)

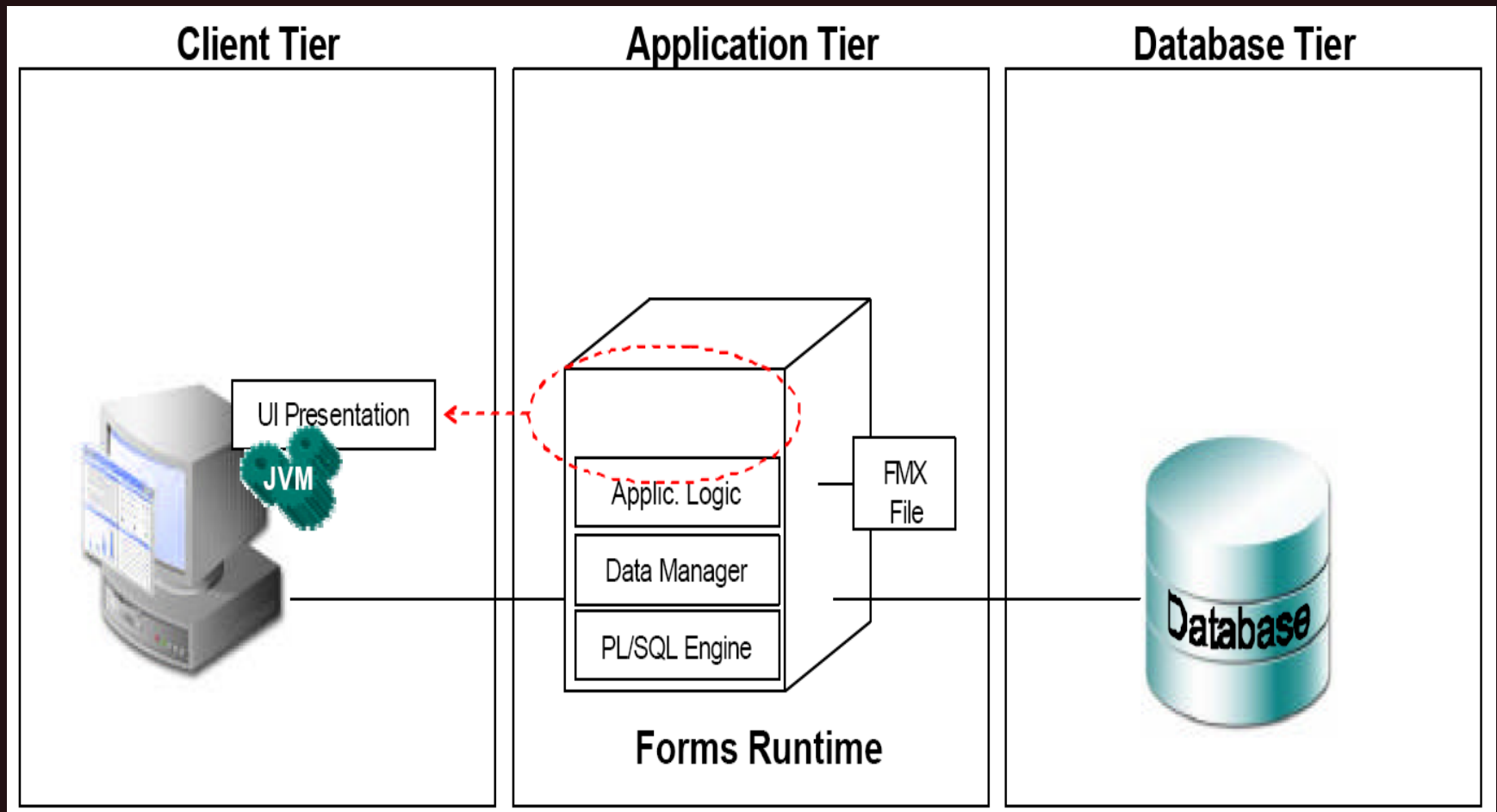
- For certain types of applications with frequently changing business logic workflows, the Forms 3-tier internet model is the only Forms architecture which is SOA-compatible and should be adopted.
 - For shops where other applications could make use of information shared with a Forms application, the internet model also makes sense.
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Client-Server Architecture (2-tier Architecture)

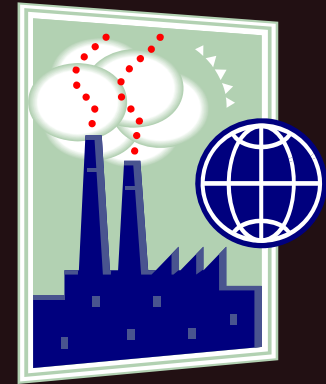


Client-Server Architecture (3-tier Architecture).

This has been available since Oracle9i Forms.



Parallel Support



- JDev should be your development tool of choice wherever possible.
- Shops using Oracle Designer Reports can continue to use this legacy tool, but learning JDev is highly recommended.

Integrated Toolsets

- To allow customers to use applications developed with either of these two sets of technologies together and benefit from a common deployment and operational environment, Oracle has also integrated the design time environments for both these offerings within Oracle Developer Suite and the runtimes within Oracle Application Server
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Integrating F&R with OAS

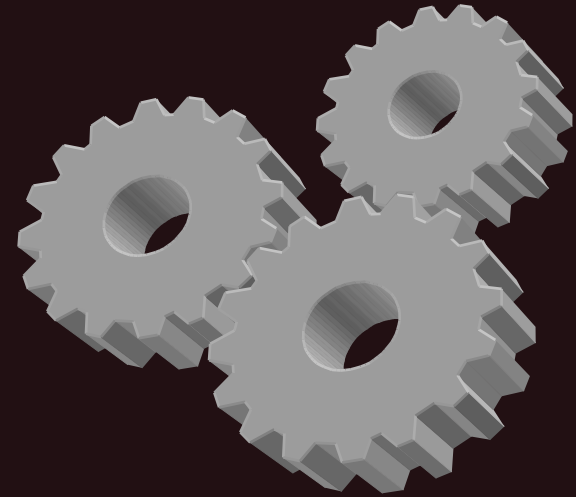
Facility for Application Interoperability

- The application server supports several runtime facilities including OC4J for J2EE and Forms applications as services (SOA) wherein both legacy and new applications can share information.
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3-tier Application Architecture

- Oracle provides features and migration utilities to allow its Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports customers to upgrade their applications from client/server to the web without having to recode their applications or migrate to any alternate technology.
 - Many hundreds of customers, including Oracle Ebusiness Suite (which still uses Forms and Reports), have successfully completed this migration.
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Interoperability



- Forms and Reports applications can co-exist and interoperate with other applications on OAS.
- Oracle Forms has a runtime interface to invoke Java/J2EE applications or Web Services (SOA).

Smoother Version-to-Version Upgrade

- Oracle Forms and Reports migrations require recompile of Forms during each upgrade.
 - Oracle has now addressed this issue by allowing compatibility changes to only occur across major releases of the Database (e.g. 9i Database to 10g Database), and;
 - PL/SQL and RSF compatibility within maint. releases (e.g. Database 10g R1 to 10g R2) is maintained, eliminating the need for Forms recompiles during such upgrades.
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Forms and Reports Standalone Installation

- You can use Oracle Forms and Reports in the context of the Business Intelligence and Forms installation model.
 - If you are upgrading from a standalone 6i environment you can also simply use Forms and Reports as a standalone installation.
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Product Stability

- Oracle has drastically improved the stability of the Forms and Reports Builders in Oracle Developer Suite 10g (v 9.0.4) compared to the previous release.
 - Oracle Forms & Reports will be focused primarily on making the upgrade to the web and to new releases as smooth as possible.
 - Oracle Designer 10g product will be fully supported and the focus will be on product stability but won't include any new functionality.
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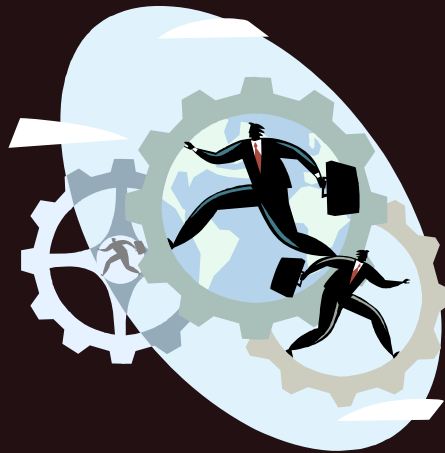
Commitment to the long-term support of the products



- Oracle Designer, Forms & Reports are a cornerstone Oracle's own E-Business Suite.
 - New versions of Oracle Designer, Forms & Reports will continue to be released and integrated with the future versions of OAS and Oracle Developer Suite.
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Support Implications for Oracle Forms, Reports, and Designer

- The specific implications of the support periods for specific releases of Oracle Forms, Oracle Reports, and Oracle Designer 6i and 9i releases are discussed on the following slides.



Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports 6i

- Version 6i is the last version to support client/server and character mode deployment.
 - The desupport dates for this release have been extended several times.
 - Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports 6i are desupported as of 01/31/2008.
 - Forms 6i shops should consider upgrade to multi-tier architecture.
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Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports 9i, 10g and beyond

- Oracle Corporation has committed development resources that will take Forms & Reports through to at least 2017, and beyond...
- There are no plans to desupport Oracle Forms and Reports after 2017.



Oracle Designer 6i

- **Aligned with the desupport of Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports 6i, Oracle Designer 6i support ends 01/31/2008.**
 - **Nothing wrong with this tool at all. It will technically be “desupported” but if it works for your needs, continue using.**
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Oracle9i Designer and Oracle Designer 10g

- If you can upgrade to Designer 10g, or at least start playing with it, do so.
 - Customers on any release of Designer are encouraged to upgrade to Designer 10g
 - Oracle Designer will not introduce new features or enhancements but will continue to be fully supported and part of Oracle Developer Suite future releases.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Oracle Designer and Forms & Reports shops can leverage Oracle's E-Business Suite of applications product strategies
 - The Oracle E-Business Suite of applications makes extensive use of Oracle Forms for its "Professional User Interface"
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Move from client-server to Web

- The entire E-Business Suite of applications that was developed in client-server mode has now moved to an Internet deployment model.
 - When moving to the Internet deployment model, the E-Business Suite of applications is now using Oracle's Application Server as its runtime platform.
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Upgrade to the latest versions

- The E-Business Suite is also upgrading to the most up to date version of Oracle Forms 10g and Oracle Reports 10g in order to exploit the stability benefits they provide, to use the latest version of the Oracle Database (RSFs), and to pick up the new features in these versions.
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Interoperate with Java/J2EE



- Finally, by moving to the Internet model and upgrading to the latest release of the application server, the E-Business Suite can also co-exist and interoperate its Forms and Reports applications with modules built in Java/J2EE.
- SOA !

Develop new modules using JDev

- “Self Service User Interface” and new E-Business Suite modules are now J2EE applications developed using JDeveloper.
 - These new applications are deployed on the same application server as the Forms and Reports applications allowing them to inter-operate and share common services.
 - In addition, Forms and J2EE applications are able to share existing business logic by using database PL/SQL stored procedures.
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Recommendations for Oracle's Customers

- Move to the Internet



- Upgrade to the latest versions of Oracle Forms, Oracle Reports, and Oracle Designer; and
 - Interoperate and co-exist these applications with new J2EE applications using Oracle's Application Server (including SOA)
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Self-Service Web?

- For customers who are facing new requirements such as a move to a self service model or a market pressure to provide an HTML user interface, the Java2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) specification has opened up a whole new set of options for application development not previously available to the developer.
 - Think “JDeveloper”
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JDEV

- Oracle JDeveloper 10g provides a visual and declarative development experience with drag-and-drop functionality.
 - Jdeveloper is an end-to-end application development framework (Oracle ADF) designed to simplify J2EE development and bring the productivity and ease of use of Oracle forms to the J2EE platform.
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Application Migrations



- Oracle has NO plans to offer a complete migration solution that could migrate applications built with these tools to J2EE development tools.
- Instead, Oracle's strategy is to provide a J2EE development environment giving to Forms and Reports developers the opportunity to become productive in a new, but familiar environment.

Dual Development Routes

- Given the rapid growth and adoption of Java/J2EE technologies in the industry, Oracle's strategy is also to provide a productive J2EE development environment (JDeveloper and ADF) allowing Forms, Reports and Designer customers to embrace J2EE development while still using a familiar RAD, visual and declarative approach.
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Successful Migration Paths

- Following the successful example of the Oracle E-Business Suite, Oracle recommends customers to web deploy their existing Forms and Reports applications.
 - Consider the opportunities of new development in J2EE using JDeveloper and ADF and integrate these applications together on the application server, sharing common services and business logic.
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Gradual Migration Path

- With this strategy, Oracle allows customers to continue to leverage their existing investments for many years while offering a path to incrementally move to J2EE, at their own pace, using a productive and familiar development environment (JDeveloper and ADF)
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CONCLUSION

- Oracle is fully committed to support Oracle Forms, Reports and Designer for a very long period of time.

